

BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year

1949.

1949

BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM.

Mayor :

COUNCILLOR S. G. WILLIAMS.

Deputy Mayor :

ALDERMAN P. J. SMALL.

Public Health Committee

(Full Council).

Chairman : Alderman A. E. Busby.

Alderman Lord Addington.	Alderman T. H. Smith.
Councillor H. E. Cornwall.	Councillor C. H. Wagland.
„ G. F. A. Downer.	„ T. Lambourne.
„ Mrs. Downer.	„ R. J. W. Bodenham.
„ W. A. Griffiths.	„ J. G. Campbell.
„ W. G. S. Thompson.	„ W. Krohn.
„ J. S. Butler.	

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health :

D. H. WALDRON,
O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., Col. I.M.S. (Rtd.).

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham R.D.C. and Bletchley U.D.C., and Divisional School M.O. North Bucks and Buckingham & Winslow District, and Area Medical Officer North Bucks).

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

T. H. FARRELL, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I., D.P.H.H. (Hons).

Sanitary Inspector :

E. FENTON, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.

Clerk and Shorthand Typist :

MISS A. CRANWELL.

BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM,

TOWN HALL,
BUCKINGHAM,

August, 1950.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Buckingham.*

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1949.

From the point of view of the general public health it has been a satisfactory year.

The Birth-rate shows a drop compared with last year, but compares favourably with that for the County and England and Wales.

The Death-rate shows an increase over last year, but this increase is due to diseases associated with the older age groups, the actual number of deaths being more than double the figure for 1948.

The Infantile Mortality Rate shows a most gratifying drop to a third of last year's rate, and it is also much less than that for the County and England and Wales.

In the case of Infectious Disease there has also been a most gratifying drop in incidence. There were only two cases of Measles notified as against seventy-nine in 1948, and only two cases of Scarlet Fever as against seventeen in 1948.

I should like to thank your officers and their staffs for the helpful co-operation I have received during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

D. H. WALDRON.

A. Vital Statistics.

					1948	1949
Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	6723	6723
Population	...	...	...	...	3990	*4340
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	1387	1419
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£21,866	£22,306
Rate per £1	...	...	...	...	23/-	23/6
Sum represented by a penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£92/11	£96

BIRTHS :

			M.	F.		
Legitimate	...	...	32	34	69	66
Illegitimate	...	...	1	2	4	3
Birth-rate per 1,000 population	...	...			18.3	16.4
„	„	„			(Bucks) ...	17.5
„	„				(England & Wales)	17.9
			M.	F.		
Still Births	...	...	-	1	Nil	1

<u>DEATHS</u>	...	...	...	25	25	39	50
Death-rate per 1,000 population	..	...				9.7	11.9
„	„	„				(Bucks) ...	9.6
„	„					(England & Wales)	10.8
Maternal Mortality Rate	...	...	...			Nil	Nil
„	„					(England & Wales)	1.02

INFANTILE MORTALITY :

Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000						
live births	...	...	...	...	41.0	14.5
„	(Bucks)	..	...	...	26.8	22.5
„	(England & Wales)	...			34.0	32.0
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...		Nil	Nil
„	Whooping Cough	...	...		„	„
„	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)				„	„

* This figure includes 140 Non-Civilians.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH;				1948			1949		
				M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1	0	1	3	1	4
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	...	...	...	3	3	6	2	2	4
Diabetes	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	1	3	4	5	6	11
Heart Disease	...	...	...	4	4	8	8	8	16
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	0	0	0	1	0	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	1	3	3	0	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	1	2	0	1	1
Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	1	2	3	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	...	...	...	2	0	2	0	0	0
Nephritis	...	...	...	1	1	2	0	0	0
Violence	...	...	...	0	2	2	3	1	4
Premature Birth	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	1	1
All other Causes	...	...	...	4	2	6	0	5	5
Totals				20	19	39	25	25	50

B. General Provision of Health Services.

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Specimens for pathological investigation were sent, as in previous years, to the laboratory at Oxford. The arrangement was satisfactory. Water for chemical analysis has still to be sent to London.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES.

The administration of these services was taken over by the County Health Department as from July 5th, 1948. For general and accident cases one motor ambulance is maintained at Buckingham, supplemented if necessary by ambulances from Bletchley. For infectious diseases the ambulance from the Isolation Hospital, Aylesbury, was utilised.

3. NURSING IN THE HOME.

The District Nurses as before carried out excellent work.

4. CLINICAL AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(a) *Maternity and Child Welfare Centre*.—A Centre at Congregational Chapel Hall has held bi-monthly sessions with the Medical Officer in attendance once a month. Although the amenities of the centre were far from ideal, good work has been carried out

therein and attendance has been satisfactory. Total attendance of children throughout the year was 853. I feel that too much praise cannot be given to those ladies who give so much of their spare time in helping with this work.

(b) *Orthopædic Clinic*.—Sessions have been held twice monthly and have been staffed by nurses from the Wingfield-Morris Hospital. Diphtheria immunisation was also carried out at this Clinic.

(c) *Chest Clinic*.—This self-contained unit, complete with X-ray, continues to do very good work. It is held once a month at 19, Stratford Road, and is attended by the Chest Physician.

(d) *Dental Clinic*.—Due to lack of staff this Clinic has not been functioning.

5. HOSPITALS.

The following hospitals have received cases from this area :—

1. Buckingham Hospital.
2. Aylesbury Isolation Hospital (Infectious cases).
3. Slade Hospital, Oxford.
4. Radcliffe Infirmary.
5. Wingfield-Morris.

6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

This service, instituted under the National Health Service Act, is administered on behalf of the County Council by the Women's Voluntary Service. A very successful start has been made in other districts in the North Bucks Area, but unfortunately nothing has been achieved so far in the Buckingham Area due to the lack of a Voluntary Worker to do the administration.

C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER.

Whilst the public water supply was maintained throughout the year satisfactorily as regards quantity, and the high bacteriological quality was maintained, it has been a somewhat troublesome year due to the two electric pumps on the deep well at Maids Moreton breaking down the same day in July.

Submersible pumps were hired whilst re-conditioning was carried out.

The deep well from which these pumps worked was cleaned out, and towards the end of the year the re-conditioned pump was working in a somewhat satisfactory manner, whilst the second pump was having a thorough re-conditioning and overhaul.

Waste water detection was still carried out during the year and the daily consumption was lowered from 43 gallons per head to 37 gallons per head per day.

Eight bacteriological examinations were made on the raw water, and on the piped supply after treatment, all of which were satisfactory.

Three chemical analyses were made which proved satisfactory.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

	Parts per 100,000	Grains per Gallon
Total Solids (dried at 180° c.)...	44.0	30.8
Combined chlorine (Cl.) ...	1.8	1.3
equivalent to Sodium Chloride (Na Cl)	3.0	2.1
Nitric nitrogen (Nitrates) ...	0.06	0.04
Nitrous nitrogen (Nitrates) ...	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen ...	0.0006	0.0004
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° c. ...	0.0010	0.0004
Albuminoid nitrogen ...	0.024	0.017
Lead or Copper ...	Nil	Nil
Temporary hardness (equivalent to Ca CO ₃)	27.0	18.9
Permanent hardness „ „ ...	8.0	5.6
Total hardness „ „ ...	35.0	24.5

“The above results show this water to be of good quality and safe for drinking purposes.”

2. SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The two sewage works, one serving the Gawcott area and one the Buckingham area, have continued to work fairly satisfactory throughout the year.

The old works in Buckingham has maintained a fairly high standard of effluent.

The proposed new sewage works are with this Council's consulting engineers, who are doing the necessary preparatory work.

3. REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected approximately once a fortnight over the whole of this Council's area.

At certain periods of the year, because of emergency work when the refuse vehicle was required for other purposes, the refuse collection fell behind but was brought up to date as soon as possible.

A survey of refuse containers in the town was carried out towards the end of the year when it was found that a high percentage of these containers were unsatisfactory.

The Council's appeal to the public to provide proper refuse receptacles has not, at the time of writing, met with very great response.

The refuse is disposed of by tipping, one tip being situated in the Bourton road area and the other in the Gawcott area.

4. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The bed of the River Ouse adjacent to the Gas Work is saturated with tar.

During the year a concrete retaining wall was built to prevent further blockage of tar from the Gas Company's tar tanks, and now the bed of the river requires cleaning out. The Ouse Catchment Board have been approached regarding this matter and details of cost are still being awaited so that the Council can decide what action to take in the matter.

5. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There is still no swimming bath in the area, although the river is used occasionally for bathing. Most of the bathers go out of the town to Stowe Lakes or Hyde Lane Pit.

6. FACTORIES.

No matters calling for special attention have been reported, and Factories Act Form 572 has been completed.

7. PUBLIC MORTUARY.

The public Mortuary, situated in this Council's yard, continued to serve the needs of the Borough and the Rural District.

D. Housing.

Again there is a feeling of disappointment that more houses have not been provided in the Borough although the Council have done their utmost to cater for the varying needs.

During the year, thirty families were re-housed, one house was closed as being unfit for human habitation, and twenty-six new Council houses were completed and occupied during the year.

E Annual Report of Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

I have pleasure in presenting a brief report on the principal activities of the Public Health Department during 1949.

Nuisances, Contraventions of Bye-Laws, etc.

Complaints received and investigated	..	...	572
Nuisances, etc., found without complaint	...	...	28
Nuisances, etc., abated	..	...	586
Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Acts			1
Informal Notices served under the Public Health Acts			63
Prosecutions	...	...	Nil

Houses and Premises Inspected.

The total number of inspections under the Public Health Acts were as follows :—

Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	8
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	4
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	10
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	12
Foodshops	...	...	...	...	18
Visits under the Tuberculosis Order	...	...	...	...	2
Infected house visits (excluding Tuberculosis cases)	...	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	125
					<hr/> 186 <hr/>

In addition to the above, visits were carried out under the Housing Act, Factories Act, Shops Act, Rats and Mice Destruction Act, and Petroleum Act, and Disinfestation of Vermin-infested properties.

Housing Act, 1936.

It is still not practicable to carry out the routine inspections under the above Act, but 21 inspections and 7 re-inspections have been carried out. It was found necessary to close one dwelling as unfit for human habitation.

Factories Act, 1937.

Mechanical Factories on the Register requiring visiting	26
Non-mechanical Factories	7
Visits paid to Factories	7

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1926—1948.

One Cowkeeper within the Borough is licensed by the County Council as a Producer of "Accredited" milk and two Cowkeepers are licensed by the County Council to produce "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

Two dairies hold licenses to bottle and retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk and one dairy is licensed to deal in "Tuberculin Tested" milk wholesale. These licenses are issued by the Borough Council.

There is no pasteurising carried out in this district, except at the Wilts United Dairy, in connection with the manufacture of milk products.

Two large receiving depots in the district were periodically inspected throughout the year and found satisfactory.

Slaughterhouses and Food Supply.

The Central Slaughterhouse in Buckingham caters for the Borough and the greater part of the surrounding district. Strict meat inspection routine, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Memo. 62, Foods, was carried out.

247 visits were made, and all animals slaughtered for sale for human consumption were examined. Numerous visits were made to other food premises for the inspection of unsound foodstuffs.

Approximately 408 Beasts, 900 Sheep, 270 Calves and 50 Pigs were slaughtered during the year; the greatest cause for condemnation was Tuberculosis.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit	...	29
Inspection of Petroleum Stores	... ..	18

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Order, 1919.

Rodent Infestation Order, 1943.

Work under this heading has continued to occupy a large amount of time, and much good work has been done in this direction throughout the year. The following is a brief summary of the work carried out:—

Number of complaints received	...	...	70
Number of premises treated for rats	...	...	91
Number of premises treated for mice	...	...	11
Estimated number of rats destroyed	...	...	1366
Actual rats' bodies found	...	...	158
Visits for Inspection and Survey	...	...	1422
Visits for baiting and extermination	...	...	510

THOMAS HENRY FARRELL,

Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector.

F. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

1. GENERAL.

There was a marked drop in the incidence of the commoner infectious diseases during the year.

2. NUMBER OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

			1948	1949
Scarlet Fever	...	...	17	2
Measles	...	...	79	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	4	-
Food Poisoning	...	...	-	4

3. CANCER.

This dread disease claimed four deaths during the year.

4. TUBERCULOSIS.

Eight new cases were notified, of which seven were pulmonary and one non-pulmonary. There were four deaths.

D. H. WALDRON,

Medical Officer of Health.

